Northern knowledge applied to Southern corruption problems – is there a better approach?

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• Projects Database
  – Selected literature
  – Tool kits

• Links
  – Web-sites
  – Organisations

• Services
  – Helpdesk
  – Training

• Resources
  – Theme Pages/Focus Areas
    • Public Finance Management
    • Health and Education
    • African Anti-Corruption Commissions
    • Natural resource management
    • Donor Coordination
    • Knowledge management
    • Corruption in Emergencies
    • Political Corruption
    • Private sector
    • UNCAC
    • Ethics
Technical assistance – aim:

**effective and sustainable transfers of knowledge and skills to recipient countries**

- Much is need, but increasingly contested:
  - Difficult to measure success
  - Tied to donor country, making it expensive!
  - “No exit in sight - consultants just keep coming”
  - TA supply driven, weakly coordinated and aligned
  - Difficult to quantify, up to 50% of all aid
Political Accountability
- Political competition, broad-based political parties
- Transparency & regulation of party financing
- Disclosure of parliamentary votes

 Formal Oversight Institutions
- Independent, effective judiciary
- Legislative oversight (PACs, PECs)
- ACCs
- Independent oversight institutions (SAI)
- Global initiatives: UN, OECD Convention, anti-money laundering

 Effective Public Sector Management
- Ethical leadership
- Public finance management & procurement
- Civil service meritocracy & adequate pay
- Service delivery and regulatory agencies in sectors

 Civil Society & Media
- Freedom of press, FOI
- Civil society watchdogs
- Report cards, surveys

 Private Sector Interface
- Streamlined regulation
- Public-private dialogue
- Extractive Industry Transparency
- Corporate governance
- Collective business associations

 Decentralization and Local Participation
- Decentralization with accountability
- Community Driven Development (CDD)
- Oversight by parent-teacher associations & user groups
- Beneficiary participation in projects

Aid and Corruption
Does all of this work?
TA- high cost for low results?
Status from a generation of AC reform
Why are we failing?
Source: Bryane Michael
Carrier of knowledge transfers 1: aid donors agencies

Powerfull based on the funds they provide, number of professional staff and their access to research infrastructure and research centres

- Not good learning institutions

Weak needs assessment processes

- Speed dating approach
- Survey data/ Internet
- Own reason approach
- Long term partnership approach

Anti-corruption disconnected from social context and deployed as isolated artefacts of tools and techniques
Carrier of knowledge transfers 2: Northern consultants

Anti-corruption is difficult – call the consultant

- Working to compensate for weak local skills, but
  - Danger of crowding out national research and policymakers
  - Quality of work: Blueprints - introduce strategies and “best practice”; they are often laundry lists of things to be done with little regard for context
  - Interest in keeping rather than sharing information
Recipients of knowledge transfeers – Southern governmets and institutions

Consumers of knowledge and implementers of advice

• At the bottom of the knowledge hierarky

• Local institutions have less influence over local policy making, why:
  • Much less resources; IFI vs the government of country X
  • Great incentives to accept studies and TA; loans, depth relief, trade

Outcome: development knowledge dependency
Power imbalance in anti-corruption reform

Ideas and reforms conceived in one context – implemented in another

- Reforms inscribed by values from designers’ background, and assumptions about the skills, values and resources of the user context (Heeks)

In the world of anti-corruption:

What are experiencing is a uni-directional contextual collision where western technocratic modernity meet traditional expression of power and authority
The assumption:

If it works for us, it’ll work for you

Countries can quickly be modernized and rationalized

The experience:

Reform failure – or weak sustainability

Not understanding that the root causes of corruption is unique to every country, sector and institution – has a consequence”
Getting it right on the donor side

“There are limits to how far outsiders can really understand how another country and society work.

Therefore:

The purpose is to make the Northern providers of TA more effective at supporting local pressures and incentives for pro-poor change” (Mathisen)
How to empower the recipient side

Goal:

• To build local capabilities for development research and policy-making
  – Independent and well resourced indigenous knowledge centres of high calibre on anti-corruption
  – Promote South-South research and collaboration on anti-corruption

Thank you for your attention